

## XXXI.—Description of a new Rat from North Borneo.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

AMONG the small Mammals obtained by Mr. John Whitehead during his expedition to Mount Kina-Balu is a skin of a very handsome long-tailed rat belonging to the group of mountain-rats that contains *Mus Jerdoni*, Bl., *M. Edwardsi*, Thos., *M. coxinga*, Swinh., *M. Blanfordi*, Thos., *M. Hellwaldi*, Jent., and others, but representing a new and very distinct species. I propose to call it

*Mus sabanus* \*, sp. n.

Fur short and fine, mixed with slender spines along the centre of the back. General colour rufous, mixed with brown along the top of the head and back, brighter and clearer on the cheeks and sides, the general tone very similar to that of *M. Jerdoni*. Whole of underside pure creamy white, sharply defined from the rufous of the sides. Outsides of limbs like sides, but rather greyer, inner sides white; lower leg and ankles greyish brown all round. Hands and feet brown along the middle of their upper surfaces, their edges white, the contrast especially strongly marked on the feet, where a broad band of deep blackish brown passes along the centre, edged on each side with pure white. Sole-pads large, smooth and prominent, the last one about three times as long as broad. Fifth hind toe, without claw, reaching to the end of the first phalanx of the fourth. Ears rounded, rather short, laid forward they do not reach to the eyes. Tail enormously long, evenly finely haired, the scales, which are large, averaging from seven to nine to the centimetre, uniformly dark brown or black above and below throughout, but the hairs black for the proximal two thirds above only, elsewhere pure white.

Dimensions of the type, an adult male, preserved as a skin:—

Head and body 280 millim.; tail 340; hind foot 43·5; ear, above head 18, breadth 18; heel to front of last foot-pad 23; length of last foot-pad 7·0.

Skull: tip of nasals to centre of fronto-parietal suture 36 millim.; nasals, length 21, greatest breadth 6·0; interorbital breadth 7·7; anterior zygoma-root, length 4·7; palate, length

\* From Saba, the district of North Borneo in which Mount Kina-Balu stands.

26·5; palatal foramen, length 7·9; back of incisors to molars 13·6; length of molar series 9·4.

The typical specimen, as well as the two new squirrels described in the August number of the 'Annals,' was obtained at an altitude of more than 3000 feet, Mr. Whitehead not commencing to collect until he had passed this height.

*Mus sabanus* may be readily distinguished from any of the species above mentioned by its enormously long tail, the peculiar coloration of its hands and feet, and by its size, *M. Edwardsi* alone being very materially larger, and all the others considerably smaller.

One species, however, also a native of Borneo, has a superficial resemblance to *M. sabanus*, although belonging to quite a different group of rats. This is *M. Mülleri*, Jent., of about the same size and with a nearly equally long tail, but which may be distinguished by its coarse *M. decumanus*-like fur, yellowish instead of rufous coloration, the less sharply-defined white underside, and by the quite uniformly brown-haired feet and tail.

XXXII.—Notes on Sphingidæ from the Malay Peninsula, and Description of a new Species of *Ambulyx* from North Borneo. By W. L. DISTANT.

DURING the time I was collecting and receiving butterflies from the Malay Peninsula as material for a recent publication a considerable number of Heterocera were also accumulated, which it is now proposed to work out. Of the family Sphingidæ I have received the following sixteen species; three more have been described by Mr. Butler, and another two recorded from Malacca by Mr. Walker. This brings the list of Sphingidæ found in the Malay Peninsula to twenty-one species, though doubtless many more remain to be discovered.

*In my own Collection.*

*Macroglossa proxima*, *Bull.*  
*Pergesa acteus*, *Cram.*  
*Panacra vigil*, *Guér.*  
*Chærocampa alecto*, *Linn.*  
 — *celerio*, *Linn.*  
 — *silhetensis*, *Walk.*  
 — *Lucasii*, *Walk.*  
 — *punctivenata*, *Bull.*

*Chærocampa nessus*, *Dru.*  
 — *erotus*, *Cram.*  
*Philampelus helops*, *Walk.*  
*Acherontia medusa*, *Bull.*  
 — *lachesis*, *Fabr.*  
*Protoparce orientalis*, *Bull.*  
*Pseudosphinx nyctiphanes*, *Walk.*  
*Diludia discistriga*, *Walk.*